

March 13, 2022

Dear Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I urge you to oppose S.B. 16 and H.B. 5416. These bills have something very important in common, they both unfairly attack firearm owners. Where does it end? The number of gun control laws on the books, within our state is staggering. Do we really need more, or do we need to focus on other aspects? I understand that there are many violent crimes committed in Connecticut and many times a firearm is involved. As a father, husband, and resident of this state I want what most firearm owners want, less violence on our streets and in our neighborhoods. These bills that do not do enough to address the violence but push gun control and this is not what we need.

Those of us who choose to carry a firearm to protect ourselves and our loved ones never want to have to defend ourselves with that firearm. We have already jumped through hoops to acquire a permit, navigate CT's restrictive and ridiculous assault weapon ban, comply with safe storage laws, pay our dues, and many take additional training to become more proficient with our firearms. All of this to be told, again and again, that we have to fight to keep our rights, to prevent more restrictions. To slow the constant attack on our freedoms and fight to make headway and propose laws that help firearm owners is an arduous commitment to make each year. This is like a horrible labor union that renegotiates each year just to lose a little more again and again.

Regarding H.B. 5416, I understand the rationale the proponents would use to justify this bill. If straw purchases are such a large part of a problem in CT, we should spend more time developing plans to combat that, such as providing additional funding to police departments in affected areas. Many firearm owners at some point in their lives decide to buy multiple firearms including handguns in a short amount of time. CT has an Assault Weapon Ban, which may cause handguns to be more popular at this time. So many firearm owners want to buy two handguns in one shot. Why should we be punished for an unsubstantiated clause that unfairly restricts a common practice. It doesn't make sense.

Senate Bill 16 is no small bill so I will not address all of the things wrong here. This is an exhaustive bill, encompassing many different areas. All I want to say is that it is a bill that really hurts firearm owners with a clear focus on attacking us no matter the cost, and no matter the outcome. How will this bill save our communities? How will this reduce crime and to what end? Why is there so much hate against our firearm owning populace? Do we not pay taxes? Do legal firearm owners commit a disproportionately large number of violent crime in Connecticut? Banning more firearms, banning carrying of firearms in more places, and making these laws so convoluted that one must use a lawyer to decipher are all examples of bad policy. Policy that will drive people out of the state or unknowingly create felons out of people moving into this state. The content of this bill is just a very personal attack on me, and I am offended that we are being targeted like this.

I would also like to ask that you SUPPORT S.B. 388, H.B. 5415 and H.B. 5412. These are good bills that should be given an opportunity and should be considered.

Please commit to creating policy in CT that helps research violent crime, punishes those who commit it, provides aid to the victims, and empowers those who stand up against it, be it at home, on the streets, in the courthouse, or at the LOB.

Very Respectfully,

Kyle Gless

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